

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 13, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Wawaloam School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Member Mary Walsh arrived at

7:03 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar; and Student Member Katherine Matook were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Jr. High School Principal Mark Thompson informed members that he received a copy of an early EWG Jr. High SALT Visit Team Report dated May 2, 2008.

Member Walsh arrived at this time, (7:03 p.m.).

Principal Thompson gave a very brief summary of the report. Chair DeSack requested to add the SALT Visit Report to the next regular meeting agenda. She also requested that each member be given a copy of the report.

Nurse teacher/Exeter parent Christine McGrane said that she is speaking on behalf of parents in the district and she voiced concerns relating to the Capital Project Building Committees' decision to repair Metcalf School's gymnasium floor rather than replacing it. She said that taxpayers voted to replace the floor when they approved the Bond. However, surplus funds from Metcalf's recent fire alarm system upgrade were available and allocated, (Clerk Coutcher moved and School Committee voted at a meeting earlier in the year) to fund a new floor, including state reimbursement if available. She questioned who sat on the Building Committee and what their expertise is. Chair DeSack said that the Capital Bond Building Committee will meet on Thursday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m. She advised parents to attend that meeting in order to make the Building Committee aware of their concerns and to obtain an explanation from the Committee as to how their decision was reached. Chair DeSack said she will make sure the Building Committee receives a copy of the parents' list of concerns. She requested that the meeting be moved from the administration building conference room to the high school so that space will be adequate for spectators. She said that Building Committee members were appointed by each town and that their backgrounds are in building and architect. Chair DeSack reminded all that the School

Committee is not permitted to engage in a discussion during Open Forum.

Member Maher made a motion to move up agenda item, VII. E. Capital Project Update to the end of the Open Forum. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

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Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross updated members on the Capital Project. He reported that, based upon a study by gymnasium floor expert Tully Architects, the Building Committee recently voted to repair Metcalf’s gymnasium floor. In response to Superintendent Geismar’s inquiry, Chair DeSack stated that going forward the School Committee shall be given a standing report on the Capital Project at every meeting. Mr. Ross reported that projects phased for summer 2008 include the Jr. – Sr. High roof, Metcalf roof and gymnasium floor, Wawaloam roof and egress, and the Lineham roof. The Jr. – Sr. High School will be off limits to students during the summer projects and student activities will be shifted to Metcalf School. The Schematic Design has been approved by the Building Committee. Mr. Ross said he will attend a meeting at RIHEBC regarding the bond financing on May 8, 2008. Clerk Coutcher voiced his concerns regarding Mr. Ross’ memo, item

2), B. The CPBC, based upon a study by Tully Architects, has voted to repair the gymnasium floor at Metcalf. Clerk Coutcher said that the January 8, 2008 School Committee meeting minutes reflect a 6 – 0 vote to appropriate up to \$92,000 from the Capital Fund for the replacement of Metcalf's gymnasium floor. Also, the vote of January 8th was to use leftover funds from Metcalf School's fire alarm system upgrade. He asked if the gymnasium floor falls under the Bond or under the School Committee. He suggested obtaining legal advice regarding these issues. Chair DeSack reiterated that in order to understand the full scope before judging the Building Committees' decision, concerned parties need to hear the reason for the committees' decision to repair the floor. Once again, she advised concerned parties to attend Thursday's Building Committee meeting. Vice Chair Cicero voiced her opinion that if the floor is repaired rather than replaced, taxpayers will perceive that the School Committee is going back on its word. Chair DeSack said that new information was received and the architect is now reporting there is not a moisture issue. If this report is true, replacement is not the best idea. The School Committee is not out to distrust taxpayers. Its mission is to manage the projects in the most fiscal way. She said that she will attempt to have Tully Architect in attendance at Thursday's meeting. She said that a copy of the Tully report and a Building Committee membership list will be made available for parents to obtain at the meeting and/or at the Superintendent's office (as early as tomorrow). Chair DeSack confirmed that the Building Committee has been made aware of the School Committees' promise to replace the floor with or

without approval of the Bond. Member Munroe asked the Chair to list the Building Committee members' names and their expertise for the minutes. Chair DeSack advised that Member Munroe's request will be added to the next regular meeting agenda.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Matook apologized for her recent absences from School Committee meetings. She said they were due to her track schedule. She then gave a comprehensive overview of upcoming important end of the year events taking place at the Senior High School.

Recognitions/Achievements - Nurse Teacher Recognitions – Superintendent Geismar acknowledged Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District's four school nurse
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teachers and asked Christine McGrane, who was in attendance, to come forward. He expressed his opinion that the school nurse teachers are a special group of individuals who go above and beyond to keep everyone in the district happy, healthy, and safe. He extended thanks to and commended EWG's nurse teachers.

Student Member Matook left at this time, (7:45 p.m.)

Wawaloam/Lineham Presentation – Principal Marino welcomed all to

Wawaloam School and gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting this year's educational programs' concentrated areas, professional development, the Partnership with Metcalf School program, and reading assessments. At Principal Marino's request, Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley gave an interpretation of the reading assessment data.

Vice Chair Cicero left the meeting at this time, (7:55 p.m.).

Principal Marino continued with her presentation. She commended the P.T.A. and said that the P.T.A. has played a large role in the social opportunities for students. She gave a summary of some of the activities organized by the P.T.A. In closing, Principal Marino introduced Nicholas Petrarca, Grade 2 student, who entered the P.T.A. sponsored contest "Reflections". Principal Marino presented Nicholas with a special recognition certificate.

Nicholas introduced his movie, "How to Make the World a Better Place", starring all of his classmates. He said that he hopes members of the audience "will do some of the things the movie says".

Vice Chair Cicero returned to the meeting at this time, (7:59 p.m.).

Upon completion of the movie, Superintendent Geismar reported that Nicholas' film will be going on to the national P.T.A. contest. Chair DeSack praised Nicholas for his fine work.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to move up agenda item, NEW BUSINESS - VI. E. Board of Regents Proposed NEW Graduation Requirements. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Vice Chair Cicero referred to information provided in members' packets regarding the Board of Regents NEW proposal to count NECAP testing results, Carnegie units, and Senior Project as 33% each for graduation. She gave her opinion that counting NECAP as a graduation requirement will be detrimental for students. She said that NECAP has flaws and it is not aligned with curriculum yet, and some students simply may not test well that day due to nervousness. Vice Chair Cicero commended parents Kim Bolton and Mary Sommer for reaching out to other School Improvement Teams around the state who share the same concerns and who unanimously decided to form a statewide SIT collaborative. The Statewide School Improvement Team Collaborative attended a Board of Regents meeting last Wednesday to request a meeting to discuss these issues in depth.

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The Regents have agreed to meet with the Statewide SIT Collaborative on Tuesday, June 5, 2008. On behalf of EWG's High School Improvement Team, Vice Chair Cicero asked for School Committee support in directing Administration to send a letter to all parents in order to educate them on the issue. Secondly, she asked that the School Committee send a letter to Commissioner McWalters

and the Board of Regents stating its concerns and stating that it does not support the NEW proposed changes.

Clerk Coutcher moved to send out both letters. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

A lengthy, wide-range discussion took place surrounding NECAP testing and student performance. Chair DeSack reviewed the motion on the floor. Voted 5 – 1 – 1. Member Munroe voted no. Member Bollengier abstained.

Vice Chair Cicero said the School Improvement Team is in the process of collecting signatures for a petition stating it does not support high stakes testing.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollinger requested to pull consent agenda item, V., B., 3., a., for discussion.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with item, V., B., 3. a. pulled. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 22, 2008

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence – (ENCLOSED) – (As Recommended by the Superintendent

a. pulled

3. Resignations – (ENCLOSED) – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Marilyn Webster from her position as 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Wawaloam School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2008

b. Letter of Resignation from Sheila Weinberg from her position as 1.0 FTE Reading Specialist Teacher at Metcalf Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2008

c. Letter of Resignation from Gail Bender from her position as 1.0 FTE Physical Education/Health Teacher at EWG Jr. High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2008

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4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$80,048.37

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) April 22, 2008 Memorandum from Westerly Town Clerk Regarding Resolution of Support; (2) April 2008 Metcalf Elementary School Good Deeds Program Newsletter; (3) April 2008 Wawaloam School Good Deeds Program Newsletter; (4) J/S High School May 2008/June 2008 School Event Calendars

Monthly Budget Projection 2007 – 2008 – Members did not discuss this item.

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Status Reports.

Business

Curriculum

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Personal Conference Request - Review – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley explained that the current CBA requires a teacher who requests and is approved for a personal conference to complete a report after attending that conference. In an effort to reduce the cost of making seven copies of each report for each

member to review, Ms. Daley recommended creating one binder to hold all the original reports for the members to access on a monthly basis. Members Munroe and Bollengier expressed their preference to receive their own individual copy of the reports. Member Maher suggested burning the reports to a disk. Superintendent Geismar said that for the time being copies will be provided to each member while researching Member Maher's recommendation. Chair DeSack asked Administration to make copies for Members Bollengier and Munroe only. She asked Administrators to research creating an electronic copy of the form for teachers to complete electronically. She suggested that monthly budget sheets and vendor reports should be available on line as well for members to access electronically through logins on the district website. Member Maher suggested those types of reports could be burned to disks as well to enclose in members' packet.

2008 – 2009 Sr. High School Program of Studies – Approval – Member Bollengier moved to approve the 2008 – 2009 Sr. High School Program of Studies. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

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Siemens Building Control Contract 1-Year Renewal – Member Bollengier moved to approve the Siemens Building Control Contract - 1-Year Renewal. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions.

Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

IKON Copier Contract Award – Member Maher moved to approve the IKON Copier Contract Award. Seconded by Member Bollengier.

Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that IKON Office Solutions is the district's current photocopier contractor. The IKON contract expires July 2008. The new contract will cost approximately \$30,000. IKON is on the state MPA vendor agreement which is available for school districts to piggyback upon. Mr. Ross said that he is awaiting clarification on whether the MPA in place is acceptable to piggyback upon in a bid year. He said he will bring his findings to the next School Committee meeting.

Member Maher withdrew his motion for approval of the IKON contract until it is brought back for reconsideration. Seconded by Member Bollengier to withdraw. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Member Maher's request for a brief recess at 8:55 p.m. was granted.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order at 9:04 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – 2008 – 2009 School Calendar – Revision – Superintendent Geismar said the 08/09 school calendar is being amended to allow a cushion for snow days. The only revision to the calendar is to move graduation from June 6, 2009 to June 13, 2009.

Member Maher moved to accept the revised 2008 – 2009 School Calendar. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Biotechnology Textbook Adoption – Member Bollengier moved to accept the Biotechnology Textbook Adoption. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

EWG Sports 4 Kids Track Update – Superintendent Geismar brought members' attention to Attorney Gorham's enclosed response to Member Bollengier's questions about the MOA with EWG Sports 4 Kids. The Superintendent requested the School Committee's approval to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

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Member Walsh moved to approve and to have the Superintendent sign the EWG Sports 4 Kids MOA. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #4150 – AIDS Virus – HIV/Hepatitis – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #4150 – AIDS

Virus – HIV/Hepatitis. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

#8516 – Police Investigations on School Premises – 2nd Reading – Member Bollengier said that he does not like policy 8516 but it is in compliance with the law. He said that Sergeant Richard Brown told him at the last School Committee meeting that West Greenwich Police Department has a policy manual that they follow for interrogation of elementary students and he will make it available to the School Committee. Officer Peter Petrarca said he is not aware of such a policy, but perhaps it is in the making and has not been finalized yet. Chair DeSack said Administration will follow-up on obtaining a copy of the policy. Officer Petrarca said that he will follow-up as well.

Wawaloam Fire Alarm/Egress Issue – Director of Administration Robert Ross requested to remove this item from future agendas and to report on this issue under agenda item, Capital Project Update going forward. Chair DeSack agreed.

Health Care Discussion – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported he is working with United Health to obtain a quote. He cautioned members that this is a situation when competing vendors ask for and give information in a less than clear and expeditious manner, which is probably why municipalities and school districts seek third party analysis prior to changing healthcare providers. Chair DeSack advised that issue will be addressed once a quote is

finally obtained.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Member Bollengier requested to pull consent agenda item, V.B.3.a. Christine Petrarca letter requesting to rescind her request to extend her leave of absence for the 2008 – 2009 school year. He asked Superintendent Geismar to explain the practical effect of impact of Ms. Petrarca’s request to rescind and if her request is granted. Superintendent Geismar explained the recall process and said there may be vacancies due to retirements as well. He confirmed that Ms. Petrarca’s seniority is not affected and that her early return results in her replacing someone one year early. He said that she is an excellent teacher.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to rescind the leave of absence request from Christine Petrarca. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, May 27, 2008-School Committee Meeting – (Special Education Presentation) in Jr. High Cafeteria; Friday, May 16, 2008-Sr. Prom; Thursday, may 29, 2008-Honors Night; Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1, 2008-Sr. High Drama Production; Friday, May 30, 2008-Semi Formal Dance Sr. High; Wednesday, June 4, 2008-Class Day; Thursday, June 5, 2008-Senior Cruise; Saturday, June 7, 2008-

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Graduation Day; Tuesday, June 10, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Monday, June 16, 2008-8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony; Monday, June 16, 2008-Last Day of School – (Please refer to Correspondence #5 for a copy of the J/S High May/June School Calendar of Events.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. in accordance with 42 -46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded Member Bollengier. Voted 7 - 0 in favor.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:21 p.m.

Clerk Coutcher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 - 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:05 p.m.

During Executive Session the School Committee voted 7 – 0 in favor to reject the TA Union’s latest mediation request.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 - 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 10:06 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK